## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

# **SB243**

# Bill as Introduced

#### SB 243 - AS INTRODUCED

#### 2022 SESSION

22-2910 11/08

SENATE BILL

243

AN ACT

permitting transfer on death deeds for real property.

SPONSORS:

Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Cavanaugh, Dist 16; Rep. B. Griffin, Hills. 6

COMMITTEE:

Election Law and Municipal Affairs

#### **ANALYSIS**

This bill provides a mechanism for the nonprobate transfer of land, done by permitting owners of interests in real property to execute and record a transfer on death (TOD) deed.

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Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in bold italics.

Matter removed from current law appears [in brackets and struckthrough.]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

#### In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT

30

563-D:7

permitting transfer on death deeds for real property.

	Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:
1	1 New Chapter; Uniform Real Property Transfer on Death Act. Amend RSA by inserting after
2	chapter 563-C the following new chapter:
3	CHAPTER 563-D
4	UNIFORM REAL PROPERTY TRANSFER ON DEATH ACT
5	563-D:1 Short Title. This chapter may be cited as the Uniform Real Property Transfer on Death
6	Act.
7	563-D:2 Definitions. In this chapter:
8	I. "Beneficiary" means a person that receives property under a transfer on death deed.
9	II. "Designated beneficiary" means a person designated to receive property in a transfer or
10	death deed.
11	III. "Joint owner" means an individual who owns property concurrently with one or more
12	other individuals with a right of survivorship. The term includes a joint tenant, owner of community
13	property with a right of survivorship, and tenant by the entirety. The term does not include a tenant
14	in common or owner of community property without a right of survivorship.
15	IV. "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership
16	limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or governmenta
17	subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.
18	V. "Property" means an interest in real property located in this state which is transferable
19	on the death of the owner.
20	VI. "Transfer on death deed" means a deed authorized under this chapter.
21	VII. "Transferor" means an individual who makes a transfer on death deed.
22	563-D:3 Applicability. This chapter applies to a transfer on death deed made before, on, or after
23	the effective date of this chapter by a transferor dying on or after the effective date of this chapter.
24	563-D:4 Nonexclusivity. This chapter does not affect any method of transferring property
25	otherwise permitted under the law of this state.
26	563-D:5 Transfer on Death Deed Authorized. An individual may transfer property to one or
27	more beneficiaries effective at the transferor's death by a transfer on death deed.
28	563-D:6 Transfer on Death Deed Revocable. A transfer on death deed is revocable even if the
29	deed or another instrument contains a contrary provision.

Transfer on Death Deed Nontestamentary. A transfer on death deed is 31 nontestamentary.

#### SB 243 - AS INTRODUCED - Page 2 -

1	563-D:8 Capacity of Transferor. The capacity required to make or revoke a transfer on death
2	deed is the same as the capacity required to make a will.
3	563-D:9 Requirements. A transfer on death deed:
4	I. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph II, shall contain the essential elements and
5	formalities of a properly recordable inter vivos deed;
6	II. Shall state that the transfer to the designated beneficiary is to occur at the transferor's
7	death; and
8	III. Shall be recorded before the transferor's death in the public records in the office of the
9	county register of deeds of the county where the property is located.
10	563-D:10 Notice, Delivery, Acceptance, Consideration Not Required. A transfer on death deed is
11	effective without:
12	I. Notice or delivery to or acceptance by the designated beneficiary during the transferor's
13	life; or
14	II. Consideration.
15	563-D:11 Revocation by Instrument Authorized; Revocation by Act not Permitted.
16	I.(a) Subject to subparagraph (b), an instrument is effective to revoke a recorded transfer on
17	death deed, or any part of it, only if the instrument:
18	(1) Is one of the following:
19	(A) A transfer on death deed that revokes the deed or part of the deed
20	expressly or by inconsistency;
21	(B) An instrument of revocation that expressly revokes the deed or part of the
22	deed; or
23	(C) An inter vivos deed that expressly revokes the transfer on death deed or part
24	of the deed; and
25	(2) Is acknowledged by the transferor after the acknowledgment of the deed being
26	revoked and recorded before the transferor's death in the public records in the office of the county
27	register of deeds of the county where the deed is recorded.
28	(b) If a transfer on death deed is made by more than one transferor:
29	(1) Revocation by a transferor does not affect the deed as to the interest of another
30	transferor; and
31	(2) A deed of joint owners is revoked only if it is revoked by all of the living joint
32	owners.
33	II. After a transfer on death deed is recorded, it may not be revoked by a revocatory act on
34	the deed.
35	III. This section does not limit the effect of an inter vivos transfer of the property.
36	563-D:12 Effect of Transfer on Death Deed During Transferor's Life. During a transferor's life,
37	a transfer on death deed does not:

#### SB 243 - AS INTRODUCED - Page 3 -

- 1 I. Affect an interest or right of the transferor or any other owner, including the right to 2 transfer or encumber the property; 3 II. Affect an interest or right of a transferee, even if the transferee has actual or constructive notice of the deed; 4 III. Affect an interest or right of a secured or unsecured creditor or future creditor of the 5 6 transferor, even if the creditor has actual or constructive notice of the deed; 7 IV. Affect the transferor's or designated beneficiary's eligibility for any form of public 8 assistance; V. Create a legal or equitable interest in favor of the designated beneficiary; or 9 10 VI. Subject the property to claims or process of a creditor of the designated beneficiary. 11 563-D:13 Effect of Transfer on Death Deed at Transferor's Death. 12I. Except as otherwise provided in the transfer on death deed, in this section, or in statutes governing antilapse, revocation by divorce or homicide, survival and simultaneous death, and 13 14 elective share, if applicable to nonprobate transfers, on the death of the transferor, the following rules apply to property that is the subject of a transfer on death deed and owned by the transferor at 15 16 death: 17 Subject to subparagraph (b), the interest in the property is transferred to the 18 designated beneficiary in accordance with the deed. 19 (b) The interest of a designated beneficiary is contingent on the designated beneficiary 20 surviving the transferor. The interest of a designated beneficiary that fails to survive the transferor 21 lapses. 22 (c) Subject to subparagraph (d), concurrent interests are transferred to the beneficiaries 23 in equal and undivided shares with no right of survivorship. 24 If the transferor has identified 2 or more designated beneficiaries to receive 25 concurrent interests in the property, the share of one which lapses or fails for any reason is 26 transferred to the other, or to the others in proportion to the interest of each in the remaining part of 27 the property held concurrently. 28 II. Subject to RSA 477, a beneficiary takes the property subject to all conveyances, 29 encumbrances, assignments, contracts, mortgages, liens, and other interests to which the property is subject at the transferor's death. For purposes of this section and RSA 477, the recording of the 30 31 transfer on death deed is deemed to have occurred at the transferor's death. 32 III. If a transferor is a joint owner and is: (a) Survived by one or more other joint owners, the property that is the subject of a 33
  - IV. A transfer on death deed transfers property without covenant or warranty of title even if the deed contains a contrary provision.

transfer on death deed belongs to the surviving joint owner or owners with right of survivorship; or

(b) The last surviving joint owner, the transfer on death deed is effective.

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### SB 243 - AS INTRODUCED - Page 4 -

1 563-D:14 Disclaimer. A beneficiary may disclaim all or part of the beneficiary's interest as 2 provided by RSA 563-B. 3 563-D:15 Liability For Creditor Claims And Statutory Allowances. I. To the extent the transferor's probate estate is insufficient to satisfy an allowed claim 4 5 against the estate or a statutory allowance to a surviving spouse or child, the estate may enforce the 6 liability against property transferred at the transferor's death by a transfer on death deed. 7 II. If more than one property is transferred by one or more transfer on death deeds, the 8 liability under paragraph I is apportioned among the properties in proportion to their net values at 9 the transferor's death. III. A proceeding to enforce the liability under this section shall be commenced not later 10 11 than 18 months after the transferor's death.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2023.

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#### SB 243 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

03/24/2022 1102s

#### 2022 SESSION

22-2910 11/08

SENATE BILL

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AN ACT

permitting transfer on death deeds for real property.

SPONSORS:

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COMMITTEE:

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#### **ANALYSIS**

This bill provides a mechanism for the nonprobate transfer of land, done by permitting owners of interests in real property to execute and record a transfer on death (TOD) deed.

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#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

#### In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

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Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened: 1 1 New Chapter; Uniform Real Property Transfer on Death Act. Amend RSA by inserting after 2 chapter 563-C the following new chapter: 3 CHAPTER 563-D UNIFORM REAL PROPERTY TRANSFER ON DEATH ACT 4 5 563-D:1 Short Title. This chapter may be cited as the Uniform Real Property Transfer on Death 6 Act. 7 563-D:2 Definitions. In this chapter: I. "Beneficiary" means a person that receives property under a transfer on death deed. 8 9 II. "Designated beneficiary" means a person designated to receive property in a transfer on 10 death deed. 11 III. "Joint owner" means an individual who owns property concurrently with one or more 12 other individuals with a right of survivorship. The term includes a joint tenant, owner of community 13 property with a right of survivorship, and tenant by the entirety. The term does not include a tenant 14 in common or owner of community property without a right of survivorship. 15 IV. "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, 16 limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or governmental 17 subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity. 18 V. "Property" means an interest in real property located in this state which is transferable 19 on the death of the owner. 20 VI. "Transfer on death deed" means a deed authorized under this chapter. 21 VII. "Transferor" means an individual who makes a transfer on death deed. 22 563-D:3 Applicability. This chapter applies to a transfer on death deed made before, on, or after 23 the effective date of this chapter by a transferor dying on or after the effective date of this chapter. 24 563-D:4 Nonexclusivity. This chapter does not affect any method of transferring property 25 otherwise permitted under the law of this state. 26

563-D:5 Transfer on Death Deed Authorized. An individual may transfer property to one or more beneficiaries effective at the transferor's death by a transfer on death deed.

563-D:6 Transfer on Death Deed Revocable. A transfer on death deed is revocable even if the deed or another instrument contains a contrary provision.

30 563-D:7 Transfer on Death Deed Nontestamentary. A transfer on death deed is 31 nontestamentary.

### SB 243 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE - Page 2 -

1 563-D:8 Capacity of Transferor. The capacity required to make or revoke a transfer on death 2 deed is the same as the capacity required to make a will. 3 563-D:9 Requirements. A transfer on death deed: 4 I. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph II, shall contain the essential elements and 5 formalities of a properly recordable inter vivos deed; 6 II. Shall state that the transfer to the designated beneficiary is to occur at the transferor's 7 death; and 8 III. Shall be recorded before the transferor's death in the public records in the office of the 9 county register of deeds of the county where the property is located. 10 563-D:10 Notice, Delivery, Acceptance, Consideration Not Required. A transfer on death deed is 11 effective without: 12 I. Notice or delivery to or acceptance by the designated beneficiary during the transferor's 13 life; or 14 II. Consideration. 15 563-D:11 Revocation by Instrument Authorized; Revocation by Act not Permitted. 16 I.(a) Subject to subparagraph (b), an instrument is effective to revoke a recorded transfer on 17 death deed, or any part of it, only if the instrument: 18 (1) Is one of the following: 19 (A) A transfer on death deed that revokes the deed or part of the deed 20 expressly or by inconsistency; 21 (B) An instrument of revocation that expressly revokes the deed or part of the 22 deed; or 23 (C) An inter vivos deed that expressly revokes the transfer on death deed or part 24 of the deed; and 25 (2) Is acknowledged by the transferor after the acknowledgment of the deed being 26 revoked and recorded before the transferor's death in the public records in the office of the county 27 register of deeds of the county where the deed is recorded. 28 (b) If a transfer on death deed is made by more than one transferor: 29 (1) Revocation by a transferor does not affect the deed as to the interest of another 30 transferor; and 31 (2) A deed of joint owners is revoked only if it is revoked by all of the living joint 32 owners. II. After a transfer on death deed is recorded, it may not be revoked by a revocatory act on 33 34 the deed. 35 III. This section does not limit the effect of an inter vivos transfer of the property. 36 563-D:12 Effect of Transfer on Death Deed During Transferor's Life. During a transferor's life,

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a transfer on death deed does not:

## SB 243 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE - Page 3 -

- I. Affect an interest or right of the transferor or any other owner, including the right to transfer or encumber the property;
- II. Affect an interest or right of a transferee, even if the transferee has actual or constructive notice of the deed;
  - III. Affect an interest or right of a secured or unsecured creditor or future creditor of the transferor, even if the creditor has actual or constructive notice of the deed;
    - IV. Affect the transferor's or designated beneficiary's eligibility for any form of public assistance;
      - V. Create a legal or equitable interest in favor of the designated beneficiary; or
  - VI. Subject the property to claims or process of a creditor of the designated beneficiary.
    - 563-D:13 Effect of Transfer on Death Deed at Transferor's Death.

- I. Except as otherwise provided in the transfer on death deed, in this section, or in statutes governing antilapse, revocation by divorce or homicide, survival and simultaneous death, and elective share, if applicable to nonprobate transfers, on the death of the transferor, the following rules apply to property that is the subject of a transfer on death deed and owned by the transferor at death:
- (a) Subject to subparagraph (b), the interest in the property is transferred to the designated beneficiary in accordance with the deed.
- (b) The interest of a designated beneficiary is contingent on the designated beneficiary surviving the transferor. The interest of a designated beneficiary that fails to survive the transferor lapses.
- (c) Subject to subparagraph (d), concurrent interests are transferred to the beneficiaries in equal and undivided shares with no right of survivorship.
- (d) If the transferor has identified 2 or more designated beneficiaries to receive concurrent interests in the property, the share of one which lapses or fails for any reason is transferred to the other, or to the others in proportion to the interest of each in the remaining part of the property held concurrently.
- II. Subject to RSA 477, a beneficiary takes the property subject to all conveyances, encumbrances, assignments, contracts, mortgages, liens, and other interests to which the property is subject at the transferor's death. For purposes of this section and RSA 477, the recording of the transfer on death deed is deemed to have occurred at the transferor's death.
  - III. If a transferor is a joint owner and is:
- (a) Survived by one or more other joint owners, the property that is the subject of a transfer on death deed belongs to the surviving joint owner or owners with right of survivorship; or
  - (b) The last surviving joint owner, the transfer on death deed is effective.
- IV. A transfer on death deed transfers property without covenant or warranty of title even if the deed contains a contrary provision.

### SB 243 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE - Page 4 -

- 563-D:14 Disclaimer. A beneficiary may disclaim all or part of the beneficiary's interest as provided by RSA 563-B, but shall do so within 60 days of the transferor's death. The beneficiary shall record a copy of the disclaimer in the registry of deeds of the county in which the property or interest disclaimed is located.
- 5 563-D:15 Liability For Creditor Claims And Statutory Allowances.

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- I. To the extent the transferor's probate estate is insufficient to satisfy an allowed claim against the estate or a statutory allowance to a surviving spouse or child, the estate may enforce the liability against property transferred at the transferor's death by a transfer on death deed.
  - II. If more than one property is transferred by one or more transfer on death deeds, the liability under paragraph I is apportioned among the properties in proportion to their net values at the transferor's death.
- III. A proceeding to enforce the liability under this section shall be commenced not later than 18 months after the transferor's death.
- 14 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2023.

# Amendments

Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21 March 8, 2022 2022-1033s 08/04

#### Amendment to SB 243

Amend RSA 563-D:14 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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1

563-D:14 Disclaimer. A beneficiary may disclaim all or part of the beneficiary's interest as provided by RSA 563-B, but shall do so within 60 days of the transferor's death. The beneficiary shall record a copy of the disclaimer in the registry of deeds of the county in which the property or

6 interest disclaimed is located.



Election Law and Municipal Affairs March 15, 2022 2022-1102s 08/10

#### Amendment to SB 243

1	Amend RSA 563-D:14 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:
2	
3	563-D:14 Disclaimer. A beneficiary may disclaim all or part of the beneficiary's interest as
4	provided by RSA 563-B, but shall do so within 60 days of the transferor's death. The beneficiary
5	shall record a copy of the disclaimer in the registry of deeds of the county in which the property o
6	interest disclaimed is located.

# Committee Minutes

#### SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Sen James Gray, Chair Sen Regina Birdsell, Vice Chair Sen Ruth Ward, Member Sen Donna Soucy, Member Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: January 18, 2022

#### **HEARINGS**

Monday			01/24/2022		
Election L	aw and Municipa	al Affairs	State House 100	1:00 p.m.	
(Name of Committee)			(Place)	(Time)	
1:00 p.m.	SB 243	permitting to	ansfer on death deeds for real pro	operty.	
1:15 p.m.	SB 244	relative to no	on-conforming structures and vari	ances.	
1:30 p.m.	SB 245	and municip	a committee to study agreements alities on municipal trash remova n owners and renters.	<del>-</del>	
1:45 p.m.	SB 246	relative to qu	nalified private communities.		
2:00 p.m.	SB 425-FN	relative to th	e establishment of an election inf	ormation portal.	
2:20 p.m.	SB 427-FN		e absentee voter registration proc and absentee ballot voting process		

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors:
SB 243
Sen. D'Allesandro
SB 244
Sen. Cavanaugh
SB 245
Sen. Sherman
Rep. Guthrie
SB 246

Sen. Watters Sen. Soucy

Soucy Rep. Mangipudi

Sen. Birdsell Sen. Carson SB 425-FN

Sen. Bradley Sen. Birdsell Sen. Watters

Sen. Cavanaugh

Sen. Daniels Sen. French Sen. Sherman

Rep. W. MacDonald

Rep. B. Griffin

Sen. Avard Sen. Perkins Kwoka

SB 427-FN Sen. Soucy Sen. Sherman Sen. D'Allesandro

Sen. Grav

Sen. Ward

Sen. Soucy

Sen. Whitley Sen. Perkins Kwoka Sen. Kahn Sen. Rosenwald Sen. Cavanaugh Rep. Cote Sen. Watters Sen. Prentiss

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

<u>James P. Gray</u> Chairman

# Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Tricia Melillo 271-3077

SB 243, permitting transfer on death deeds for real property.

**Hearing Date:** 

January 24, 2022

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Birdsell, Ward, Soucy and Perkins Kwoka

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill provides a mechanism for the nonprobate transfer of land, done by permitting owners of interests in real property to execute and record a transfer on death (TOD) deed.

Sponsors:

Sen. D'Allesandro

Sen. Cavanaugh

Rep. B. Griffin

Who supports the bill: Senator Lou D'Allesandro, Senator Kevin Cavanaugh, Barbara Schult, Dianne Shakra, Emily Eggens, Margaret Shafer, Janet Fitzpatrick, Cathy Joly, David Butler, Marie Morgan, Leigh Willey, Eric Loveless, Michael Sciarappa, Russan Chester, Laurie Littlefield-Baas

Who opposes the bill: None

Who is neutral on the bill: Susan Cragin

Summary of testimony presented in support:

#### Senator Lou D'Allesandro

- This bill will add a whole new section to our estate laws permitting the transfer on death of deeds for real property.
- There are many advantages, including tax advantages, but the most important is avoiding probate.
- Many states already have this legislation in statute but it will be a new section of law for New Hampshire.
- This was a request from a constituent.
- Senator Gray asked if currently on a vehicle title you can add someone that it transfers to upon death.
  - Senator D'Allesandro replied that he is not sure but there may be somebody else here that will know.
- Senator Gray asked if this is compliant with all of the current estate laws.
  - o Senator D'Allesandro replied that as far as he knows it is. The caveat to that is that they are creating a new section of law with this legislation.
- Senator Gray stated his concern is that if there is a creditor and the home is the only asset how
  would the creditor be able to access it to cover the debt if it has been transferred upon death.
  - o Senator D'Allesandro replied that he cannot answer that but this is a methodology that has been accepted in many states around the county.

#### Barbara Schult

- Regarding Senator Gray's question she stated that this legislation does leave the property vulnerable to a creditor.
- There are many people where their house is the only asset they have.

- When it comes to estate planning they do not need all the complexity of creating a trust.
- This legislation is something that she read about in the Union Leader and thought it would be perfect for someone that does not have a lot of assets.
- It matters and will make a difference for a lot of citizens.
- The transfer on death deed is a useful and inexpensive tool for citizens to make use of if it fits their situation.
- It could free up the probate courts.
- This is simple to do and is the same thing that married people with joint right of survivorship have but for a single person.
- Transfer on death is simple and clean and leaves people the freedom to change it inexpensively.
- Senator Perkins Kwoka asked what it the difference between this and transferring your property today and giving yourself a life estate.
  - Ms. Schult replied that she does not know too much about a life estate except that when you need to change it you have to get signatures from others and with transfer on death deeds you do not. She can maintain total control.
- Senator Perkins Kwoka asked if she knows how many other states have adopted this.
  - Ms. Schult stated that it was more than half.

#### Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

#### **Neutral Information Presented:**

#### Susan Cragin - Merrimack County Register of Deeds

- She is neutral on the bill and testifying to point out something odd about the legislation that she thinks needs more consideration.
- She will give the beneficiary point of view regarding section 563-D:10 Delivery Acceptance Consideration Not Required.
- Her husband was bequeathed by will ¼ of a house when his mother died and immediately disclaimed the gift.
- There were many reasons why he did not want it, environmental, polluted water, costly repairs needed and ownership would be between him and his siblings.
- If her husband had not disclaimed under the will, he would have had to go to New York state and hire an attorney to do the transfer.
- This would have been costly and burdensome.
- The American Association of Retired People put out an article on 6 good reasons to decline a request of real property.
- Good tax move, it is a dog of a property, it will trigger a government aid investigation, it will trigger a family drama, it will go directly to creditors, and lastly it is the right thing to do.
- If people are getting real property they need to have the opportunity to turn it down before it becomes theirs.
- This provision does not work.
- A lot of what makes this law a seemingly good idea it that it is one of the uniform laws put out by the Uniform Law Commission.
- The Uniform Law Commission laws are not always perfect or well considered.
- This bill needs to be gone over carefully by the committee.
- Senator Gray asked if she is familiar with the statutes that address estates that are small, that
  have less stringent rules.
  - o Ms. Cragin replied that she is not.

TJM

Date Hearing Report completed: January 29, 2022

# Speakers

# Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: January 24, 2022

Time: 1:00 p.m.

SB 243

AN ACT permitting transfer on death deeds for real property PRIME: Senator D'Allesandro

Name/Representing (please print neatly) No Support Yes Oppose Speaking? Senator Lou D'Allesandro W Support Oppose Yes. No Barbara Schult Susan Cragin Speaking?  $\square$ Yes No Support Oppose Speaking? 双 M Support No Oppose YesSpeaking? Support' Oppose Yes No Speaking?  $\Box$ No YesSupport Oppose Speaking? 11 Yes No Support Oppose Speaking? П No Support Oppose Yes Speaking? No Yes Support Oppose Speaking? No Support Oppose Yes Speaking?  $\Box$ No Support Oppose Yes Speaking? Support Oppose Yes No Speaking? Support Yes No Oppose Speaking? No Support Oppose YesSpeaking? Support Yes No Oppose Speaking?  $\Box$ YesΝo Support Oppose Speaking?  $\Box$ Support Oppose Yes No Speaking? No Yes Support Oppose Speaking? Support Oppose Yes No Speaking?

### **Senate Remote Testify**

# Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill SB243 on 202. Support: 12 Oppose: 0

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	Representing	<u>Positior</u>
Cavanaugh, Senator Kevin	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
Shakra, Dianne	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Eggens, Emily	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Shafer, Margaret	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Fitzpatrick, Janet	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Joly, Cathy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Butler, David	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Morgan, Marie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Willey, Leigh	A Member of the Public	Myself	Neutral
Loveless, Eric	A Member of the Public	Myself	- Support
sciarappa, micheal	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Chester, Russan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Littlefield-Baas, Laurie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support

# Testimony

# Understanding the Transfer on Death Deed

If you own real property and are looking for a way to avoid probate, you need to understand the benefits of a transfer on death deed. This simple document may help you to simply and inexpensively avoid probate for real estate.

by Edward A. Haman, Esq. updated July 22, 2021 · 4min read

Probate can be expensive and time-consuming, but it may be avoidable. For real estate, one way is with a transfer on death deed (TOD deed).



### **How a TOD Deed Works**

In a TOD deed, the current owner designates one or more persons as beneficiary. The beneficiary automatically becomes the owner of the property when the current owner dies. A beneficiary can be an individual or an

organization such as a charity. In some states a TOD deed is referred to as a beneficiary deed, TOD instrument or deed upon death.

#### Related: <u>Using a Survivorship Deed</u>

As of September 2019, the District of Columbia and the following states allow some form of TOD deed: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Ohio has replaced the TOD deed with a TOD affidavit, but the effect is the same. With a trend toward permitting TOD deeds, more states may be added in the future. A few states, such as Michigan, have a similar but technically different document, commonly called a Lady Bird deed.

If your property is not located in a state that allows TOD deeds, you may still be able to avoid probate by other means, such as transferring property to a living trust.

Deeds held by married couples typically state that they own property "as joint tenants with rights of survivorship" or as "tenants by the entireties." If one spouse dies, the surviving spouse automatically becomes sole owner. A married couple may also create a TOD deed. The beneficiary will not acquire the property until the second spouse dies, but the surviving spouse can revoke the TOD deed before then.

A beneficiary should be designated by name, never just by their relationship to you. If you designate two or more beneficiaries, indicate how they will take title — typically either "as joint tenants with rights of survivorship" or "as tenants in common." You may also designate alternative or successor beneficiaries, in case the first beneficiary dies.

#### Advantages of a TOD Deed

Following are a few benefits of the TOD deed compared with other methods of transferring property upon death:

 Transfer by will. Even with a will, the property must go through probate to be transferred to the new owner. A TOD deed avoids probate.

 Joint ownership. Having someone on the deed as a joint owner with rights of survivorship will avoid probate. Upon the death of one owner,

- title automatically goes to the surviving joint owner or owners. But all joint owners have equal rights in the property. Therefore, selling or mortgaging the property will require the agreement of all joint owners. With a TOD deed, you keep full control of the property.
- Transfer to a living trust. While transferring property to a living trust can avoid probate without sacrificing control, setting up a trust requires a more complicated document than a TOD deed. If an attorney prepares the document, creating a living trust will be significantly more expensive than a TOD deed. But for large estates with various types of property, a comprehensive estate plan that includes a living trust may be advantageous.

#### Other advantages of a TOD deed may include:

- Maintaining homestead advantages. Many states offer asset protection and taxation benefits for a person's principal residence. These benefits may be lost with certain types of ownership transfers, but not with a TOD deed.
- Tax savings. Designating a beneficiary is not an immediate transfer, so no federal gift tax is owed. The beneficiary acquires ownership on the current owner's date of death. If the beneficiary later sells the property, any capital gain will be based upon the value of the property at the original owner's date of death, not the value when the original owner acquired the property.
- Maintaining Medicaid eligibility. If a person applying for Medicaid has made a gift of property within a certain period before applying, that gift may delay the receipt of benefits. Upon a Medicaid recipient's death, the government may seek reimbursement from the recipient's probate estate. A TOD deed is not usually considered a gift of the property, nor is the property part of the probate estate subject to reimbursement.

#### Creating a Transfer on Death Deed

As with any real estate deed, the document must comply with state law. All real estate deeds must include certain information, such as the names of the grantor (current owner) and grantee (beneficiary), legal description of the property, signature of the grantor, and legally required witness and notary provisions. Other requirements may include minimum type size and formatting to allow space for recording stamps.

Special language must be used to create a TOD deed, clearly stating the name of the beneficiary, who is usually referred to as the "grantee beneficiary," and that transfer will take place upon the death of the current owner.

Prior to the death of the current owner, the TOD deed must be recorded in the property records of the county where the property is located. This is simply a matter of taking the original TOD deed to the county public records office — usually the county clerk or register of deeds — and paying a small fee. The records clerk will take the deed, stamp it to indicate the date it was received, take whatever other action is necessary to have it officially entered in the county records and return the original to you.

Preparing a TOD deed is not complicated but must be done in compliance with state law. Some states have an approved form, and using it may be the safest way to be sure your compliance.

Ensure your loved ones and property are protected

# Voting Sheets

## Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs Committee

EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD 2022 Session

Hearing date: 124	22		Bill SB	243	
Executive Session date:	3/4/2	<u>a</u>			
Motion of:(	3TP		Vote:		
Committee Member Sen. Gray, Chair Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair Sen. Ward Sen. Soucy Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	Present X X X X X X X		Second	Yes No	-
Motion of:	33 s	MOL	Vote:	5-C	<u> </u>
Committee Member Sen. Gray, Chair Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair Sen. Ward Sen. Soucy Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	Present X X X X X X	Made by	Second	Yes No	· /
Motion of:	OTP/	<del>0</del>	Vote:	5-0	)_
Committee Member Sen. Gray, Chair Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair Sen. Ward Sen. Soucy Sen. Perkins-Kwoka DS Concent	Present X X X X X Z	Made by	Second	Yes No	,
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# Committee Report

#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

#### SENATE

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Monday, March 14, 2022

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred SB 243

AN ACT

permitting transfer on death deeds for real property.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

AMENDMENT # 1102s

Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka For the Committee

This bill as amended provides a mechanism for the non-probate transfer of real property. It allows owners to execute and record a transfer on death deed, which automatically transfers real property to a beneficiary upon the passing of the grantor. Provision has been made in the bill for disclaiming of the real property by the beneficiary and claims of creditors. For those whose only asset is their property and their issue, this tool offers peace of mind for transfer of a primary home upon death without expensive legal fees.

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

8.141.

#### General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

### **Docket of SB243**

**Docket Abbreviations** 

Bill Title: permitting transfer on death deeds for real property.

#### Official Docket of SB243.:

Date	Body	Description
12/14/2021	S	To Be <b>Introduced</b> 01/05/2022 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; <b>SJ 1</b>
1/18/2022	S	Hearing: 01/24/2022, Room 100, SH, 01:00 pm; SC 4
3/15/2022	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2022-1102s, 03/24/2022; Vote 5-0; CC; SC 12
3/24/2022	S	Committee Amendment <b>#2022-1102s</b> , AA, VV; 03/24/2022; <b>SJ 6</b>
3/24/2022	S	Ought to Pass with Amendment 2022-1102s, MA, VV; OT3rdg; 03/24/2022; SJ 6
3/28/2022	Н	Introduced 03/28/2022 and referred to Judiciary
4/13/2022	Н	Public Hearing: 04/13/2022 10:30 am SH Reps Hall
4/1/2022	Н	Executive Session: 04/14/2022 09:00 am LOB 206-208
4/22/2022	Н	Committee Report: Refer for Interim Study (Vote 21-0; CC)
5/4/2022	Н	Refer for Interim Study: MA VV 05/04/2022 HJ 11

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•	NH House	NH Senate

# Other Referrals

## Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: SB 243 Senate Committee: ELMA
Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside
Final docket found on Bill Status
Bill Hearing Documents: (Legislative Aides)
X Bill version as it came to the committee
X All Calendar Notices
X Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)
Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing
≺ Hearing Report
Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office
Committee Action Documents: (Legislative Aides)
All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):
X - amendment # 10335 - amendment #
X- amendment # 100 5 - amendment #
X Executive Session Sheet
Committee Report
Floor Action Documents: (Clerk's Office)
All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):
- amendment # amendment #
- amendment # amendment #
Post Floor Action: (if applicable) (Clerk's Office)
Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):
Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)
Governor's Veto Message
All available versions of the bill: (Clerk's Office)
x as amended by the senate as amended by the house
final version
Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:
Lucea Melello 6/14/22 Committee Aide
Senate Clerk's Office